

IN THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

R

v

Leon Woods

Cleveland McEntee

Tron McEntee

SENTENCING REMARKS

HHJ REBECCA TROWLER KC

11.3.25

Preliminary Matters

1. Firstly, if the information with which I have been provided as to the days CM has spent proves to be inaccurate, then the prosecution or defence must notify the court so that the case can be relisted to correct the calculation as soon as possible and in any event within 56 days.
2. Secondly and importantly, I ask that there is silence during the whole of my sentencing remarks. It may well be that emotions will be running high in all parts of the Courtroom, but it is very important there are no interruptions so that everyone is able to hear, concentrate and understand the reasons for the sentences that I will shortly pass.
3. The defendants may remain seated until I say otherwise.

Sentencing Remarks

4. Cleveland McEntee you have pleaded guilty to the murder of Mark Barrs on the evening of 6th April 2024
5. Leon Woods, you have pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of MB.

6. You, Tron McEntee, you have pleaded guilty to an offence of violent disorder committed in the minutes before MB's death.
7. I must sentence now you for those offences.
8. MB was a former soldier who served in Afghanistan. He was 39 years old at the time of his death. The loss and desolation visited upon his family is set out in the victim personal statements from his brother, Nicky Barrs, and his cousin Mo Gentle, who read out their statements in open court this afternoon, also that of his grandmother Christine Blinco and his other cousin Gemma Blinco.
9. Those statements describe the unimaginable distress experienced by the whole family. MB was, plainly, deeply loved, and his death has taken a heavy toll on various members of the family in different ways. There is no punishment in terms of years which can bring him back or undo the irreparable harm caused by his death. There are no words which I can use which will provide comfort to his grieving family. All I can do is to recognise the courage with which members of his family endured the trial, and the playing of the CCTV which depicted the last minutes of his life, over and over again. Members of MB's family are here today. Their pain is palpable.
10. I turn to the facts of these offences.
11. In the early evening of 6th April 2024, you, LW, were drinking in the Old Hat Public House in Ealing. Some tension arose between you and MB. On the evidence this was, initially at least, most probably the result of MB taking issue with having to move for you as you brought another stool to the bar. Whatever the cause of the bad feeling between the two of you, you called your two brothers Cleveland and Tron and they soon each came to the Old Hat and joined you. TM arrived first. CM you booked a taxi to take you there a matter of minutes after receiving the call from Leon Woods and you took a knife with you. TM was at times waiting outside for you until you arrived and the unlawful violence and stabbing of MB occurred within three minutes of you both having arrived at the Public House to join your brother. TM, it is accepted by prosecution you didn't know of the problems between LW and

MB before you arrived and I sentence you on that basis. However, you plainly knew shortly afterwards. CM. whether or not you were planning to travel to the Old Hat that evening in any event, I am satisfied so that I am sure that before you arrived you did know of the difficulties, that is why you brought a knife.

12. Once you were all together at the bar which was by then fairly busy, an argument began between you, LW, and MB. David Rogers, one of those with MB and who was known to you LW, gave evidence that he was acting as a peacemaker between the two of you. That this is so, is clear from the CCTV footage from cameras within the Old Hat. He was though unable to calm the situation and he moved outside into a courtyard by the bins to the public house. He was followed by you three and MB along with two others who had been on the periphery of what was taking place inside.
13. Once you were all outside there was shouting and gesticulating between the two groups and some pushing and shoving. Much of what followed is captured on CCTV. At one point the three of you can be seen to stand alongside each other and move forward from the pavement towards MB, DR and the two others now with them who were all standing with their backs towards or against the exit doors of the pub. Whatever had happened in the bar beforehand, you three were undoubtedly the aggressors, and the fight ensued.
14. Tron McEntee you threatened unlawful violence by standing with your fists raised when present with your brothers.
15. You, LW, punched at David Rogers in what you admit was an act of unlawful violence. I am sure that you were the attacker in your interactions with DR who had gone to some lengths to calm the situation. Any force he used was plainly, as he said, in self-defence.
16. CM, you lunged forward with your knife and stabbed MB to the chest with at least moderate force, causing a fatal wound to his heart.

17. All three of you left the scene leaving Mark Barrs to die in the street a few yards from where he was stabbed.

CM

18. CM I now turn to deal with you, in particular.

19. The sentence for murder is fixed by law and I will shortly sentence you, CM, to life imprisonment.

20. I must also set the minimum term that you must serve before any consideration can be given to releasing you. In considering the seriousness of the offence for the purpose of determining the minimum term, I must have regard to the general principles and the starting points set out in Schedule 21 of the Sentencing Act.

21. Paragraph 4 of Schedule 21 provides that for an offender aged 18 or over a starting point of 25 years will apply where “the offender took a knife to the scene, intending to have it available as a weapon, and then used that knife in committing the murder”.

22. I am sure that you committed this murder with a knife you had taken to the scene with the meaning of schedule 21. Indeed, you have admitted doing so through your counsel in your basis of plea. I adopt a starting point of 25 years.

23. Having taken this starting point, I must have regard to factors which aggravate the offence, that is make it more serious. This murder is made more serious by the fact that it was committed in a public place and, further, by the fact that you have several previous convictions including, of some relevance, possession of a bladed articles, albeit when you were a youth, common assault and assaulting a police officer.

24. I must and I do also have regard to the mitigation in your case.

25. CM you are now aged 40. At the time of the offences, you were 39.

26. I sentence you on the basis, not disputed by the prosecution, that when you stabbed MB you did so intending to cause him really serious harm, but not to kill him. I reduce the sentence for that fact.

27. There is information and evidence before the court that you had a difficult childhood and you were in care at the age of 10, you struggle with literacy, you have had some mental health difficulties in the past, including a breakdown requiring inpatient treatment, and you are currently medicated with anti-depressants. You have young children from whom you will now be separated. I have read letters from your son, your former partners and friends of yours who have known you for years. They know you to be a good father and a good friend and to have shown remorse for taking another man's line.

28. I have regard to the letter you have written to the family of MB in which you have expressed remorse.

29. I reflect all of this in the sentence that I pass.

30. I afford you some, but minimal credit, for your guilty plea entered on 5th March 2025 which was the eighth day of trial and towards the close of the prosecution case. I have regard to the Sentencing Council's Guideline in relation to reduction in sentence for a guilty plea which makes it plain in cases of murder the maximum reduction will only ever be, at the most, one sixth, and that such reduction will only apply where the offender pleaded guilty at the first opportunity. This is to be distinguished from the Guidance in relation to other offences which affords up to one third credit and as much as 10% where an offender pleads guilty on the first day of trial. The net effect of the guidance is that reduction for a guilty plea is heavily restricted in cases of murder and I limit the reduction in your case to 6m.

LW

31. I now turn to you, LW, and the offence of manslaughter.

32. By your guilty plea to manslaughter you have admitted that you participated in the use of unlawful violence with your brother, against MB, and that when you did so you intended some harm be caused to him. I sentence you on the basis you put forward, which is not in dispute, that you had no knowledge of any person carrying a knife nor did you encourage the stabbing of Mr. Barrs.
33. Against that background, I have regard to the Sentencing Council Guideline in relation to unlawful act manslaughter. In my view, it would not be just to treat your unlawful act as carrying a high risk of death or really serious harm which was or ought to have been obvious to you. In my view this is an offence of medium culpability, Category C, within the meaning of the Guideline, as you intended that some harm be caused and none of the low culpability factors are present. As I have already said, you were not in any sense acting in self-defence.
34. The starting point for a medium culpability case of manslaughter is 6 years imprisonment, within a range of 3 to 9 years. However, I uplift that starting point to 8 years, to reflect the fact that your unlawful act, being one of unlawful group activity, gave rise to a high risk of harm falling just short of RSH and this should have been obvious to you.
35. This offence is then made more serious by the fact that it was committed in public. You also have a number of previous convictions. Of particular relevance, you have convictions assault occasioning actual bodily harm committed in 2007 when you assaulted the victim in a public house, battery in 2015 when you assaulted a bank manager who had stated he would close your account, and threatening behaviour in 2017 when you were shouting and swearing at staff and customers, again in a public house. I reject the submission that these offences are to be disregarded by reason of their age and for the lack of serious violence or group activity. Although two of these are somewhat old, these are all incidents of violence or aggression, including when in public houses.
36. Turning to the mitigation in your case.

37. At the time of this offence, you were 42 years old.
38. You have three children including young children. You will now be separated from them and they will be separated from you for some time.
39. I have read letters from your partner and others close to you, they attest to your positive attributes as a partner and father.
40. There is also evidence before the Court that you have made progress in custody whilst on remand.
41. All of this I reflect in the sentence I will pass.
42. I am told that you have remorse for your offending. If so, this has only latterly emerged and I sentence you on that basis. I reject the submission that you showed remorse shortly after the offence. Comments you made to CM when you made your get away together show no more than concern for yourself having realised that he had stabbed MB.
43. I give you 5% credit for your guilty plea entered on the 8th day of trial. You had not previously indicated your intention or willingness to plead guilty to manslaughter nor had you admitted any unlawful violence.
44. Given that you did not knowingly participate in or encourage an attack with a knife I am not satisfied that you present a risk of serious harm to members of the public by way of further specified offences and it is not necessary for me to consider an extended sentence.

TM

45. TM, in determining the appropriate sentence in your case I have had regard to the SC Guideline in relation to Violent Disorder. In my view, this is a culpability B case as you participated in an incident involving a serious act of violence. The is also a

category 2 harm case because the incident resulted in the most serious physical injury, namely death. The starting point for a 2B offence is 2 years with a range of 1 to 3 years.

46. However, you were very much a lesser player in the melee that preceded the stabbing and I reduce the sentence for that fact.

47. I also have regard to the mitigation in your case.

48. You were 34 at the time of the offence and you are now 35.

49. You have only minor and irrelevant previous convictions for driving matters when you were 18. You are effectively of previous good character for these purposes and there is evidence of your positive good character before the Court in letter from your fiancé.

50. There is also evidence before the Court of your remorse for your involvement in this incident which you expressed in interview, upon being charged and to others since.

51. Whilst in custody you have become an enhanced prisoner and have carried out various roles to the benefit of others.

52. I give you 5% credit for your guilty plea on the 8th day of trial.

53. I make it clear that I am not satisfied that you present a risk of serious harm to members of the public by way of further specified offences and it is not necessary for me to consider an extended sentence.

Sentences

54. Please stand up.

55. **CM** I make it plain that in setting the minimum term I am not ordering that you are to be released at the end of it. Whether you will be released at that stage, or at any later stage, will be a matter for the Parole Board to consider. Only when the minimum term has been served can the Parole Board decide whether or not it is safe to release you. If and when the Board does release you, you will remain on licence and liable to recall for the rest of your life. If you breach the conditions of release you are likely to be returned to custody.

56. I sentence you to Life Imprisonment. Had you not already served 333 days on remand in relation to this offence, the minimum term would have been one of **23 years**. I have deducted those 333 days and the minimum term is therefore **22 years and 32 days**.

57. Sit down please.

58. Please stand up, **LW**.

59. For the offence of manslaughter, I sentence you to **7 years** imprisonment.

60. You will be released from custody no later than two-thirds of the way through the sentence and the remainder of the sentence will be served on licence in the community. You must comply with all the conditions of your licence, failing which you will be at risk of recall to prison to serve the remainder of the term in custody.

61. Sit down

62. Please stand up, **TM**.

63. For the offence of violent disorder, I sentence you to **12m imprisonment**. The time you have served on remand will count towards that sentence and it may be that you will be released in the near future.

64. Once you are released the remainder of the sentence will be served on licence in the community. You must comply with all the conditions of your licence, failing which you will be at risk of recall to prison to serve the remainder of the term in custody

65. The surcharge provisions apply in relation to all three Ds.

66. Please take all Ds downstairs.